

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2016 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

Members Present

Mrs Julia Borland
Mr Don Yeomans
Mrs Caroline Broom
Mr Barrie Carter
Mrs Sue Osborne (District Councillor)
Mr John Dyke (Somerset County Councillor)

Also present

Miss Jackie Parsons (Parish Clerk)
5 Members of the Public

Meeting commenced at 7pm

1. **Apologies for Absence**

None Received

2. **Public Open Forum**

Mr M Wilson stated that a hearing loop had now been installed in the village hall. Mrs M Wilson stated that at the junction where the Woolminstone road meets the Clapton road there is a berberis and Buddleia that is restricting the view at the junction. Mr H Ploszek (member of the public) offered to ask the owner of the property if these bushes could be trimmed back to make the junction pull out safer.

3. **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda (Pecuniary or non-statutory interests).**

None

4. **To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th May 2016 and to approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Councillors held on the 28th June 2016.**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th May 2016 were proposed by Mr D Yeomans and seconded by Mrs C Broom. All councillors present were in favour. The minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Councillors held on the 28th June 2016 were proposed by Mrs C Broom and seconded by Mrs J Borland. All councillors present were in favour.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.**
Mr D Yeomans asked if we were missing a set of minutes. The Clerk explained that the Annual Parish Meeting minutes would be agreed at next year's Annual Parish meeting. Mr D Yeomans asked about the points that were raised at that meeting for further follow up? The Clerk stated that she would follow up these points and apologised that action had not been taken on these matters.
6. **Planning Matters**
- A): 16/01617/FUL, A H Warren Trust Ltd Coombe Farm Roundham Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RR. Internal and external alterations to office.
Application permitted with conditions.
- B): 16/01610/FUL, 2 Battery Cottages Hewish Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QU. Demolition of existing extension and the erection of a single storey rear extension.
Application permitted with conditions.
- C): 16/01739/FUL, The Nest Hinton Hill Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7TW. The erection of a first floor extension to dwelling house.
Application permitted with conditions.
- D): 16/0182/FUL, Highlands Dairy Farm Hewish Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QY. The erection of agricultural building with canopy to house cattle.
Application permitted with conditions.
- E): 16/02002/TPO, Hillside Farm Hewish Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QS. Application to fell 30 No. trees in Woodland 1 and 1 No. conifer in Woodland 2 within South Somerset District Council Tree Preservation Order(West Crewkerne No. 1. 2010)
Application permitted.
- F): 16/00814/FUL, Broadside Roundham Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RH. Creation of an access and hardstanding (Part Retrospective).
Although this was not on the agenda the plans had been received and the application was discussed at the meeting. The Parish Councillors had no objection to the plan but felt it was a matter for Highways to consider.
7. **Highway Matters**
- The signs in Dunsham Lane.
The Chairman stated that the signs in Dunsham Lane appear to be all fixed.
- The report from Somerset County Council regarding the state of the roads in West Crewkerne Parish.
The Chairman had sent an e-mail to the Highways Department of Somerset County Council regarding the Annual Report on the state of the roads in West Crewkerne Parish. The e-mail she had received back stated that the Annual Inspection of the roads in Somerset and therefore in West Crewkerne Parish picks up only any safety issues on the roads and does not take into account any surface or drainage aspects of the roads. Mr D Yeomans stated that is not what their website conveys.
- Cathole Bridge Crossroads joint approach with Crewkerne Town Council to County Council Highways.

The 30MPH sign had been asked to be moved to the other side of Maiden Beech School via a joint letter with Crewkerne Town Council which had been sent to Somerset County Council Highways Department, the Chairman said she would update the Councillors as and when a reply had been received. Mr J Dyke (Somerset County Councillor) asked if the Parish Councillors would like him to look at the possibility of putting it forward next year for the Small Improvement Scheme. The Chairman welcomed Mr J Dyke suggestion.

Footbridge by the ford in Woolminstone.
The footbridge has been repaired.

8. Reports from Councillors, including District and County Councillors.

Mr J Dyke (Somerset County Councillor) reported that Somerset County Council together with Devon County Council have applied to the Government for devolution of the Councils to have control over their finances. They have asked what will be devolved down to the County Councils and how much money will come down to the County Councils before a decision is made. The County Council have made the decision that no Mayor will be elected.

Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) reported that a Chief Executive has to be appointed for South Somerset District Council and when appointed will result in Managerial Changes at South Somerset District Council. The five year housing supply plan fall short this year and therefore was cause for concern. This has implications for planning applications, which because the Council does not have a five year supply, could mean planning applications being approved where residents do not want housing.

The housing supply plan being out of date also raises monetary questions, having spent the amount of money that the Council spent on the local plan and questions could be asked as to why it has become out of date in such a short time, Council taxpayers could ask whether the money was well spent?

Universal Credit which replaces housing benefit is coming in by next April to West Crewkerne Parish.

Nothing to report from Mrs C Broom.

Mr D Yeomans reported that Somerset County Council Highways had stated that the road from Higher Woolminstone Farm to Newland Lane will be cleared and patched up this year and resurfaced next year, a stick and patch effort now and resurfaced next year.

Mr B Carter asked Mr J Dyke (Somerset County Councillor) about the small improvement scheme for Roundham. Mr J Dyke stated that the proposal had been accepted and now a feasibility study will be carried out. Mr J Dyke stated he has no input into the feasibility study. Mr B Carter asked what the time scale was but Mr J Dyke was unable to give him an answer on this point. Mr D Yeomans asked Mr J Dyke if the money allocated to the Small Improvement scheme was allocated to each scheme once it had been accepted, based on the estimate of the cost of the scheme

when it was put forward for the scheme. The money is allocated as each scheme gets the go ahead but there is money in the scheme right up to 2018/19.

Mr B Carter also stated that the cats eyes and marking in the road at Roundham have been removed he asked Mr J Dyke if he knew the reason for this? Mr J Dyke said he did not know the reason for this and Mr B Carter would need to contact the Highways department. Mr H Ploszek stated that three years ago the road had been resurfaced but they had used the wrong kind of tarmac and it had made the surface slightly slippery. The Highways department stated that they would resurface the road in three years time. That is probably the reason for the removal of the cats eyes and road marking.

Mrs J Borland asked if the Councillors and the parishioners present if it would be an idea to invite someone to explain how a parish council works in conjunction with both District and County Councils. The Chairman noted that training sessions were conducted about planning matters and there had been a recent meeting about potential flooding. Surely a meeting explaining about local government and their services would be of equal benefit. Mr D Yeomans stated that there was no interaction between District Council and Parish Council. Mr J Dyke stated that if the Parish Council outlined the specific items from County Council that they require background information on, if the Parish Council would like him to, he could respond to these specific enquiries. The councillors thought that the idea to have a meeting between councillors and someone with inside knowledge of how the system works would be of benefit to all. The Chairman said she would pursue the proposal.

The Clerk gave a precis account of the audit process on the Parish Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016. The auditor Mr M Wilson had audited and agreed the accounts. An Extra-Ordinary Meeting was called on the 28th June 2016 of the Parish Councillors and the accounts statement, governance statement and bank reconciliation statement was agreed at that meeting and the paperwork for the external auditor Grant Thornton was signed and dated. The paperwork was sent to the external auditors on the 29th June 2016. No reply has been received from them as yet. The notice for anyone who wishes to inspect the books of the West Crewkerne Parish was served with the notice being displayed on the website and on the outside noticeboard of the Clapton and Wayford Village Hall. Nobody had telephoned her as yet to inspect the books.

Mr D Yeomans asked if the matters arising in the Annual Parish Meeting could be followed up especially the sign for Coombe Farm on the A30. The clerk would follow up with the required actions.

Mr J Dyke reminded the meeting of the Somerset County Council Chairman's awards for voluntary service in the Parish. Each Parish can nominate a person to receive an award.

Mrs J Borland asked the Parish Councillors if they would like an update from the Parish Clerk for the months where there is not a monthly meeting. All the Councillors were in favour. The Chairman asked the Clerk if she would give an

update in the months where there was not a meeting for items that were raised at the Parish Council Meetings.

9. **Finance**

A) To Pay;-

1. Clerk Salary of £182.40. Cheque no.251.
2. HMRC of £45.60 Cheque no. 230.

No new cheque book had been received so the Chairman went into the NatWest Bank Crewkerne and cancelled the cheque book that would have contained the cheques from 231 to 250. The new cheque book has now been received by the Clerk and starts at 251.

B) Audit update already given under reports.

10. **Correspondence**

All the Parish Councillors present had received the correspondence. Mr H Ploszek asked if the item was to go on the website but the councillors felt that it should only be treated as a news item.

Mr M Wilson asked if the website can send out alerts when there is an item on the website that is of particular interest to the parishioners. Mr H Ploszek said that the website would be able to do this but at extra cost to the Parish Council and you would need to set up a database of names and e-mail addresses to send out the alerts. At the meeting the consensus of opinion was that it was not worth pursuing. Mrs J Borland thanked Mr H Ploszek for maintaining the website so efficiently.

11. **What progress has been made with the Planning department of South Somerset District Council regarding the number of cars parked at Mr Hughes' property?**

The enforcement section of the planning department at the District Council does not appear to have taken any action. The Chairman Mrs J Borland asked the meeting what was actually parked on the property? The Chairman was informed that there was 2 Lorries, a van and 3 or 4 cars on the property. Mrs J Borland stated she would follow up with the Planning enforcement officer.

12. **The drain at the end of Mr H Johnson's land clarification on whether this drain has been cleared.**

There was some confusion from the meeting as to whether this drain had been cleared.

13. **To confirm that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 13TH September 2016 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

Confirmed that the next West Crewkerne Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th September 2016 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman